

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03874 120604Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01 PER-01
ABF-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 /037 W
-----130500Z 043974 /21
R 111548Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4758
JCS WASHDC
INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3874

FROM AMBASSADOR POPPER FOR JCS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS MORG
SUBJ: SANTIAGO MILGP MANNING LEVELS: FY 78 JTD

1. I HAVE OBSERVED WITH GROWING CONCERN THE DELAY AND
APPARENT DISAGREEMENT REGARDING FY 77 AND FY 78 MANNING
LEVELS AND COMPOSITION FOR MILGP SANTIAGO.

2. A NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION MEMORANDUM HAS DIRECTED
THAT THE FY 77 LEVEL FOR MILGP SANTIAGO WILL BE SIX U.S.
MILITARY PERSONNEL. IN SPITE OF THE PROPOSAL BY MILGP
SANTIAGO, WITH MY STRONG SUPPORT AND THE APPROVAL OF
USCINCSO, FOR THE COMPOSITION OF MILGP AS OUTLINED IN
USCINCSO 181357Z MAR 77, SUCH COMPOSITION IS STILL BEING
DEBATED WITHIN THE JCS. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT
REMOVAL OF EXCESS PERSONNEL HERE WILL HINGE UPON APPROVAL
OF THE FY 77 AND FY 78 JTD. CLEARLY, THE DELAY IS
DAMAGING TO THE FUTURE ASSIGNMENT OF THE OFFICERS
HERE, LOWERS MORALE AND INCREASES PERSONNEL UNCERTAINTY.

3. I HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT THE CONTROVERSY
OVER THE COMPOSITION OF MILGP SANTIAGO RESULTS FROM
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THE CONCERN BY SEVERAL SERVICES REGARDING THE TRI-
SERVICE IMBALANCE (I.E., AIR FORCE PREDOMINANCE) FOR
FY 77 AND FY 78. I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE
COMPOSITION OF MILGP SANTIAGO AS PROPOSED BY THIS
MISSION AND AS APPROVED BY USCINCSO IS BASED UPON THE
JOB TO BE DONE IN SANTIAGO. THE QUESTION OF HOW MANY
PERSONNEL FROM EACH SERVICE AS SUCH IS IRRELEVANT

TO OUR TASK HERE. OUR PROPOSAL FOR THREE USAF PERSONNEL, TWO NAVY AND ONE ARMY FOR FY 78 IS BASED UPON THE FACT THAT THE ONLY REMAINING PROGRAM OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN CHILE IS AN AIR FORCE PROGRAM, AND THIS MUST BE DEALT WITH. AS MILGP HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO SOUTHCOM, INTENSIFIED SUPPORT OF THE HIGHLY VISIBLE F-5/A-37 PROGRAMS IS ESSENTIAL THROUGH FY-78, AT WHICH TIME MOST AIR FORCE PIPELINE DELIVERIES WILL HAVE BEEN MADE AND EACH WILL HAVE ESSENTIALLY COMPLETED TRANSITION TO THE F-5 AND A-37 AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

4. FURTHERMORE, AS YOU KNOW, THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION FOR 1977 NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION PROVIDES THAT ON OCTOBER 1, 1977, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD (WITH LIMITED EXCEPTIONS) WILL BE ASSIGNED TO PERFORM SUCH TASKS AS THE CHIEF OF THE U.S. MIBMCON SHALL DIRECT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE RELEVANT SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ALSO HAVE APPROVED WORDING WHICH WILL ASSIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL TO THE AMBASSADOR AND NOT TO THE AREA MILITARY COMMANDER.

5. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR APPROVAL OF THE COMPOSITION OF MILGP SANTIAGO AS PROPOSED FOR FY 77. THE LEVEL AND COMPOSITION OF MILGP SANTIAGO FOR FY 78 PRESUMABLY WILL NOT REQUIRE THE JTD PROCESS, SINCE THIS DETERMINATION WILL BE MADE BY THE AMBASSADOR UNDER THE LAW.

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6. I WILL APPRECIATE YOUR PROMPT CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

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